

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment an Abstract is submitted.

Claims 1-25 entered from the Article 34 amendments are also canceled by the present response without prejudice and new claims 26-50 are presented for examination. New claims 26-50 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter. Further, new claims 26-50 are not believed to be more narrow in scope in any aspect in comparison with canceled claims 1-25.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

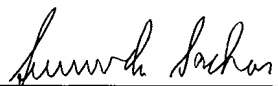
Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

GJM:SNS\pmt

I:\ATTY\SNS\290913US-PR.doc

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599  
Surinder Sachar  
Registration No. 34,423